

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

THE MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Minister: The Rev. Roberto DeSandoli

Music Director: Naomi Piggott-Suchan

Organist: Paul Suchan

Guest Musician: Kelsey Ronn

December 17th, 2023

3rd Sunday of Advent

"The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world." – John 1: 9

As we gather, we are mindful of the fact that we meet on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Treaty Six First Nations and the traditional home of the Métis.

We are grateful for the hospitality we have received as settlers in this place and recommit ourselves to the work of reconciliation and building good relations with the First Peoples of this land.



Prelude: Ave Maria – Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

Preparation for Worship: We invite you to observe a time of quiet reflection prior to our service.

Welcome and Announcements

- The Rev. Roberto DeSandoli

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Lighting the Candle of Peace

- Kirk Ready & Heather Shouse

Prayer of Adoration

Praise:

"People, look east"

#125

Prayer of Confession: **(Unison)**

Generous God,

We confess that our concerns are narrow, focused mostly on our own lives.

Opportunities to say thanks or to offer encouragement slip by.

Anxiety turns us inward and anger can make us lash out.

Forgive us for neglecting the joy at the heart of the Advent season.

Turn our hearts back to you,

and inspire us with your love made flesh in Jesus Christ.

Assurance of Pardon

Children's Time

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Praise: ***"My soul gives glory to my God"*** **#123**

(Children and their favourite adult leave for Church School in the lower hall)

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings:

Malachi 4: 1-6

- Donna Bailey

Psalm 126 (Refrain 2)

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

John 1: 6-9, 19-28

- The Rev. Roberto DeSandoli

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Sermon

"Joyful Return"

- The Rev. Roberto DeSandoli

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Stewardship Moment

- Orlanda Drebit

Invitation to the Offering

Anthem: Magnificat, from *Evening Service in C* – Franz Henry Shera (1882-1956)

Doxology (#830) and Prayer of Thanksgiving

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below: praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Offertory Prayer

Prayers of the People

Response: Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel

WE GO OUT IN GOD'S NAME

Praise: ***"Hark the glad sound"*** **#118**

Sung Benediction Oh Come, oh come, Emmanuel #122

**Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lowly exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel**

Postlude: O Gloriosa Domina – Michael Head (1900-1976)

Lock up:

Heather Reichert

Coffee Hosts:

Stuart & Dorothy Middleton, Fran Gordon



A SPECIAL WELCOME is extended to our visitors this morning. Please sign the guest book in the entranceway, or fill out a visitor's envelope found in the pews. If you are looking for a church home, we hope you will consider St. Andrew's. HEADSETS with earphones and radio receivers (101.1fm) are available to those who require hearing assistance.

CHILDCARE: There is a nursery available in the lower hall.

LARGE PRINT Bibles, bulletins and hymnals are available from the ushers.

PARKING: There is courtesy parking in the Delta's underground parkade on Sunday mornings (for those who have St. Andrew's parking stickers).

CONTACT US: Phone 306-242-0525, Email office@standrews-saskatoon.com, Website: www.standrews-saskatoon.com

NORMAL OFFICE HOURS: Monday to Thursday, 9:00AM-2:00 PM

Announcements

Mini Christmas Bake Sales

THE LAST WEEK! Some bake sale items may be available for purchase. Stock will vary each week.

For those donating their time and talent:

- Keep volumes small.
- Price your own items (or ask for help), keeping in mind that ingredients have gone up in cost over this past year. Place them in the entranceway.
- Label with any common allergens (wheat/gluten, eggs, nuts, dairy, MSG, cinnamon, mustard, artificial colouring).



For those who may consider purchasing items:

- Bring small bills and coins of various denominations, as there may not be change available.
- Items that arrived this week will be in the entranceway before the service and moved to the lower hall after.



Advent Walk An Advent Pilgrimage, commences on Sunday Dec. 3 and ends on Dec.24. You will find the daily scripture readings and the walking log at presbyterianchurch.ca or pick up the copy in the narthex. Please let me know if you are participating so that collectively we can add the km to see whether we can all walk from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

If you would like it mailed to you, please let me know.

You can call/text me at 306-229-7846, or email me at lauralene66@gmail.com. Thank-you.



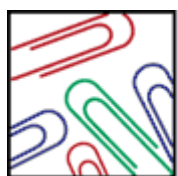
2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available on the entranceway table. In each box there is a designated envelope that enables you to help offset the cost of the offering envelopes. If you would like to have your own box of envelopes, fill out the information on a Visitor's Envelope located in the pews and place it on the offering plate, or contact the church office. ***If you would prefer to make pre-authorized remittances, please fill out a blue PAR authorization form (found on the entranceway table), attach a void cheque, and place it in the offering plate.***

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE Christmas Eve Worship will begin at 7pm. Come in person, or watch from home. Live streamed, and available later on YouTube.

In order to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission made 94 Calls to Action; this week we are reminded of Call to Action #52.

52. We call upon the Government of Canada, provincial and territorial governments, and the courts to adopt the following legal principles:

- i. Aboriginal title claims are accepted once the Aboriginal claimant has established occupation over a particular territory at a particular point in time.
- ii. Once Aboriginal title has been established, the burden of proving any limitation on any rights arising from the existence of that title shifts to the party asserting such a limitation.



FROM THE
CHURCH
OFFICE

- ❖ The end of the year is quickly approaching! Please ensure that all invoices for payment, and any donations are received by the office asap.
- ❖ The church offices will be closed over the holidays. December 22 – January 2, inclusive.
- ❖ To have donations eligible for a 2023 charitable donation receipt, they must be received by the office **NO LATER** than January 15, and dated 2023.

AVAILABLE ON THE ENTRANCEWAY TABLE:

- * These Days: Daily Devotions for Living by Faith, Oct/Nov/Dec Suggested donation: \$3.00
- * Copies of the winter issue of the Presbyterian Connection
- * Contact Information Forms
- * The latest edition of “*Saints Alive*”, the newsletter

ADVENT APPEAL

Thank you for your support of this year’s Advent Appeal. Everyone has been very generous with their donations. The gifts are piled high around the tree, and we have been receiving a lot of monetary donations. Thank you. However, all good things must come to an end and this Sunday (Dec. 17th) is the last day that we are officially receiving gifts, as we now need to deliver them to the agencies. If you still have a gift sitting by the door at home, or you have an idea for one that you have not yet been able to purchase, you will now have to contact one of the Outreach Committee and we will make sure that your donation is sent where it is needed. The committee wishes you a wonderful Advent season and a Merry Christmas.

In Our Wider Community

Micah Mission Fundraiser: Reconciliation Reels at the Roxy Theatre

The Body Remembers When the World Broke Open on Tuesday, December 19 at 7 pm
See poster for more details.

The Sherbrooke Foundation currently has an appeal to renovate their bathing rooms for residents. See the poster for more details.



Third Sunday in Advent

Joy

Voice 1: The prophets call and an apostle writes to announce that joy comes from God.

Voice 2: "The spirit of the Lord God is upon me...and has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, ...to comfort all who mourn; ...to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning..."
(Isaiah 61)

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, rejoice."
(Philippians 4)

Voice 1: Grief, pain and loss are inevitable. But woven into life is the joy of living in a universe that reflects God's beauty. Advent provides time to nurture joy in our lives and in the world God loves. Advent calls us to share with others the good news that comes into the world with the birth of Christ.

Voice 2: Holy are you, Source of all new life among us.

All: **Jesus Christ comes as joy to the world.**

Voice 2: We join with all creation and lift our hearts in joyful praise.

All: **We light this candle to glow for joy.**
(while lighting the candle of joy)

Sing verse 3 of #119 Hope is a star



“I want to finish school”



The students at Neno Girls Secondary School in Malawi who receive scholarships from PWS&D are all children of God with unique interests and challenges. Yet, they have one thing in common: their families can't afford to pay for their education.

With help from PWS&D, a scholarship program makes education available to some of the most marginalized teenage girls in the area.

For girls, challenges are even more significant, with the cultural expectations regarding domestic labour and early marriage preventing many from pursuing higher education.

A student named Caroline Mkapita shares, “I am lucky to be here because my other friends dropped out of school due to lack of support. None of the girls in our village have managed to reach [the highest grade] and to go to college or university.”

While another student, Lindiwe, expresses her gratitude, “I just want to say thank you for helping me with my education.”

This Advent season, faithfully respond to Christ’s call to equip children with the tools they need to build joy-filled lives and brighter futures.

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Presbyterian World Service
& Development

WeRespond.ca

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1-800-619-7301 | pwsd@presbyterian.ca

With support from Presbyterians Sharing, The Well Church (Mississauga) provides a welcoming space for those who identify as a third culture community; that is, one that is neither the culture of mostly immigrant parents nor the dominant culture of Canadian society. In a post-pandemic world, the ministry



has decided to re-set their focus around spiritual formation, in everything from small groups to children's ministry, retreats and conferences. They are also training leaders to be elders with spiritual formation at the centre. By focusing on spiritual formation and becoming more Christ-like, the congregation has not only grown closer as a community, but they also feel better equipped to share their personal stories of hope and transformation with friends and neighbours.

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, December 17 Give us joy, O God, as we prepare to welcome Christ among us.

Monday, December 18 (International Migrants Day) We pray decision makers address much-needed protections for the rights of migrant workers and open just and fair pathways to permanent residence in Canada.

Tuesday, December 19 We pray and give thanks for the Rev. Daniel Cheng, General Secretary of the Bible Society in Taiwan, as he retires after nine years of dedicated service.

Wednesday, December 20 We pray for the congregation of St. Andrew's, Lunenburg as they work through the PCC's New Beginnings Renewal Program to discern their next steps in ministry.

Thursday, December 21 We pray for the Rev. Dr. Theresa Charlton, serving as synod clerk for British Columbia.

Friday, December 22 We pray for the treasurers of congregations who work hard all year to keep the financial books in order.

Saturday, December 23 We pray for the people who gather and serve at Two Rivers Church as they open their hearts and homes to those living in Guelph, ON.